



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK  
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**Week of Jan 30, 2006**

**BHUTAN**

**Local officials say rabies outbreak under control in Bhutan**

Health officials in Trashigang, Bhutan report that the number of people suspected to be infected by the rabies virus has increased to 129 from 126 in the past few days. Despite this increase, local health officials say the outbreak is under control and there have been no recent reports of infected cattle or dogs. Health officials in Trashigang said that the vaccines are expensive and that so far, 129 people have been inoculated. Meanwhile, they report that some of the infected people have gone to other parts of the country to seek treatment. The rabies virus is usually transmitted through the saliva of an infected host. According to the US Center for Disease Control, the initial symptoms of rabies may include flu-like symptoms, which could last for days as well as a burning, itching, or tingling feeling at the site of the bite. Symptoms then evolve to include cerebral dysfunction, anxiety, confusion, agitation, progressing to delirium, abnormal behavior, hallucinations, and insomnia. Once clinical signs of rabies appear, the disease is nearly always fatal,

**Source:**

· Rabies under control, say health officials, Jan 29, 2006, <http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=6479>  
· National Center for Infectious Diseases: Rabies Natural History, Feb 03, 2006,  
[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/natural\\_history/nathist.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/natural_history/nathist.htm)

**INDONESIA**

**Indonesia health officials report additional human bird flu death**

On Thursday (February 2) Indonesian health officials reported that a 15-year-old boy from the city of Bandung, located 90 miles (150km) southeast of Jakarta, died of bird flu after coming into contact with dead chickens. Samples from the victim have been sent to a collaborating World Health Organization (WHO) laboratory in Hong Kong for

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confirmation. If the WHO confirms the tests, the boy will be Indonesia's 15th confirmed human bird flu fatality. Indonesian officials are also awaiting confirmation in the death of a 22-year-old chicken vendor from Jakarta who died last week, also from the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus, according to local tests. As of Thursday (February 2), the deadly H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus has killed 86 of the 161 WHO confirmed human cases across Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iraq, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam since the first outbreak in 2003.

**Source:**

- Indonesian teen dies of bird flu, local tests show, Feb 03, 2006, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK343603.htm>
- In Indonesia, 2 more flu deaths suspected, Feb 02, 2006, [http://terraily.com/reports/In\\_Indonesia\\_2\\_More\\_Flu\\_Death\\_Suspected.html](http://terraily.com/reports/In_Indonesia_2_More_Flu_Death_Suspected.html)
- Tests show boy died of bird flu, Feb 03, 2006, <http://www.brunel-online.com/bb/fri/feb3w9.htm>

### **Dysentery outbreak in Papua province, Indonesia**

According to the Jakarta Post (Thursday, February 2), between December and January, dozens of people have died in the area of Puncak Jaya in Papua province as the result of a dysentery outbreak, citing reports from a local reverend. In response to local official reports, the Coordinator of the Papua Health Crisis Center, Paminto Widodo, said that he would send representatives to the site to assess the outbreak, and a doctor was already stationed at Mulia public hospital in Puncak Jaya. According to local officials, as many as five people died in one day from the outbreak. The outbreak is believed to have been caused by recent heavy rains. Symptoms of dysentery include abdominal pain, fever, rectal pain and diarrhea, usually with blood and mucus. Two of the most common causes of dysentery are infection with a bacillus of the Shigella group, and infestation by an ameba, Entamoeba histolytica. Both types are spread by fecal contamination of food and water.

**Source:**

- Dozens reported dead in dysentery outbreak in Papua, Feb 03, 2006, [http://www.jakartapost.com/detailheadlines.asp?fileid=20060203\\_@03&iirc=2](http://www.jakartapost.com/detailheadlines.asp?fileid=20060203_@03&iirc=2)

### **Polio cases pass 300 in Indonesia**

On Saturday (January 28) a statement issued by the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) reported that three more children have contracted polio in Indonesia, bringing the total number of cases to 302. On Monday (January 30) Indonesia held another nationwide immunization drive targeting 24 million children under the age of five. According to the UNICEF statement, another two rounds of immunization drives are scheduled for February and April. Polio resurfaced in Indonesia in March 2005, after nearly a decade of being polio-free. In response the government coordinated three immunization drives last year. Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus that can cause irreversible paralysis of children within hours of infections. Polio is endemic in four countries, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. This week, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that polio has been eradicated in both Egypt and Niger.

**Source:**

- Indonesian polio cases pass 300 mark, Jan 28, 2006,

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[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060128/wl\\_asia\\_afp/healthindonesiapolio\\_060128102038](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060128/wl_asia_afp/healthindonesiapolio_060128102038)  
· Egypt: WHO declares country polio-free, Feb 03, 2006, <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=51475>

## MALAYSIA

### Dengue outbreak in northeast Malaysia

According to Malaysian authorities, the two 13-year-old girls who died last month in the Tanah Merah district of northeast Kelantan state, died of dengue fever, with one of the victims also suffering from bacterial meningitis. Earlier reports said the girls were believed to have died from Japanese encephalitis, but Ismail Merican, Director General of the Health Ministry confirmed both cases were dengue. Ismail said that the government was taking measures to control mosquito populations in the state to prevent further spread of the disease. Last year in Malaysia, 108 people died from dengue fever compared to six from Japanese encephalitis. In Tanah Merah alone, where the two girls died, 11 dengue cases were reported in January. Malaysia's rainy season runs from mid-November until March, providing ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes that carry the disease and transmit the virus through their bites.

#### Source:

· Malaysian Officials fear new outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis, Jan 29, 2006, [http://news.monstersandcritics.com/health/article\\_1090018.php/Malaysian\\_officials\\_fear\\_new\\_outbreak\\_of\\_Japanese\\_Encephalitis](http://news.monstersandcritics.com/health/article_1090018.php/Malaysian_officials_fear_new_outbreak_of_Japanese_Encephalitis)  
· Malaysia scrambles to contain dengue outbreak, Feb 03, 2006, <http://www.asianews.it/view.php?l=en&art=5287>

## NEW ZEALAND

### New Zealand: Gastroenteritis outbreak in Tauranga hospital

An outbreak of norovirus (viral gastroenteritis) has been reported at Tauranga Hospital, in the city of Tauranga, New Zealand. According to hospital officials the outbreak has affected both patients and staff, and is thought to be parts of a series of such outbreaks across the nation. An additional suspected outbreak was reported on January 31 at a conference at the University of Otago in Dunedin. In response to the Tauranga hospital outbreak, two hospital wards have been closed to limit the outbreak within the hospital. Noroviruses are a group of viruses that cause gastroenteritis. Symptoms usually include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramping, and usually lasts only about one or two days. Noroviruses can be transmitted by eating or drinking foods infected with the virus, or by people touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and then placing their hands in their mouths, or having direct contact with someone infected with the virus.

#### Source:

· Gastro Outbreak – Tauranga Hospital, Feb 03, 2006, <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/GE0602/S00007.htm>

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## PHILIPPINES

### HIV cases double over last three years in Philippines

According to Health Secretary Francisco Duque, a new health department study estimates the number of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) carriers in the Philippines has risen to 11,168, from about 6,000 in 2002. According to health department epidemiologist, Enrique Tayag, only about 3,000 of these cases represent populations engaged in high-risk behaviors, with an estimated 8,000 of the cases in the general population. In the health department survey, one percent of injecting drug users in Cebu, the country's second largest city, were found to be HIV-positive. World Health Organization country representative John Marc Olive said the discovery of HIV-positive injecting drug users should serve as a "red flag" for the Philippines.

#### Source:

- HIV cases double over last three years, Jan 31, 2006, [http://www.philstar.com/philstar.NEWS\\_FLASH02012006541020.htm](http://www.philstar.com/philstar.NEWS_FLASH02012006541020.htm)
- Philippines HIV cases double over three years, Jan 31, 2006, [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060201/wl\\_asia\\_afp/healthphilippinesaid.060131172352](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060201/wl_asia_afp/healthphilippinesaid.060131172352)

## SRI LANKA

### Dengue outbreak in Sri Lanka

According to Health Ministry sources, some 585 cases of dengue fever have been recorded between December 2005 and January 24, 2006. These cases have been reported from the districts of Galle, Kandy, Kurunegala, Gampaha, and Kalutara. In the last year, more than 4,000 cases of dengue were reported, down from the record of more than 10,000 cases reported in 2004. Dengue outbreaks are common in Sri Lanka during two times of the year: June to August and December to February. Dengue is endemic in Sri Lanka and many other countries with tropical climates. Globally, more than 2.5 billion people are at risk of infection. An estimated 50 to 100 million people contract dengue each year. Symptoms of dengue fever include a sudden onset of a high fever, severe headache, as well as joint and muscle pain. Other symptoms include nausea, vomiting, and a rash, which appears several days after the onset of a fever. Most dengue infections result in relatively mild illness, but some can progress to dengue hemorrhagic fever, which is a severe form of dengue, and can be fatal if not recognized and properly treated.

#### Source:

- Dengue: Stopping a potentially deadly threat in Sri Lanka, Jan 30, 2006, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EK0I-6LK3UF?OpenDocument>
- Sri Lanka: Dengue on the Increase, Feb 02, 2006, <http://www.island.lk/>

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## IRAQ

On Friday (February 3), a collaborating World Health Organization (WHO) laboratory confirmed that a teenage girl from the town of Raniya in Sulaymaniyah province, died on January 17 from the deadly H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus. The laboratory is testing the two other samples from suspected cases, including the victim's uncle, from the same area in Sulaymaniyah province, which borders Iran. While poultry deaths had been recently reported in the area, there has not yet been any confirmation of the deadly H5N1 subtype of the virus in the birds. Samples from the dead birds have also been sent to an external laboratory. The 14-year-old girl was found to have a history of exposure to the diseased birds, though the uncle's source of infection is still under investigation. This WHO confirmation makes Iraq the seventh country to have a confirmed human case of the deadly H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus. In response, the WHO has sent several thousand courses of Tamiflu treatment to the area, as well as a team to assist local health officials in Sulaymaniyah.

- *Avian influenza – situation in Iraq, Jan 30, 2006.* [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006\\_01\\_30a/en/print.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_01_30a/en/print.html)
- *WHO confirms Iraq Bird Flu Death, Feb 03, 2006.* [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/low/middle\\_east/4676834.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/low/middle_east/4676834.stm)

In response to an extensive outbreak of Chikungunya on the Indian Ocean island of Reunion, French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has deployed 400 soldiers along with dozens of medical experts to help quell the outbreak. According to France's Health and Overseas Affairs ministries, there are about 10,000 to 15,000 cases of Chikungunya on the island of Reunion, of which about 20 recent cases have shown "complications". Meanwhile, an Agence France Presse story posted on Thursday (February 2), reports that as many as 50,000 of the island's 750,000 inhabitants have been infected with Chikungunya. The wet conditions created by the rainy season in Reunion, which generally runs from November to March, provide ideal breeding grounds for the mosquitoes that transmit Chikungunya virus. Symptoms of Chikungunya include the sudden onset of chills and fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, and rash. Chikungunya is usually not life-threatening. While suspected cases of Chikungunya have been reported throughout the island, there is reportedly a high concentration of cases in the southern district of Saint-Pierre.

- Island disease hits 50,000 people, Feb 03, 2006,  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/europe/4674376.stm>
- Chikungunya Reunion Island, Jan 30, 2006, [http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5744,17975689%](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,17975689%~)

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